

PATENT

REMARKS

This paper is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 23, 2007 having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 23, 2007.

Claim 2 is currently amended to recite more clearly aspects of the claimed subject matter.

Claims 14-20 are added to recite additional aspects of the claimed subject matter.

Entry of the foregoing amendment and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The Office Action rejected Claims 2-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hervish* (U.S. Patent No. 5,911,875; hereafter "*Hervish*"). The Office Action states:

Hervish (figures 1-3) teaches a residual oil supercritical extraction process (ROSE process) integrated with a combined cycle power and steam generation system 1, said power and steam generation system... supplying the high level heat requirements of the ROSE unit...said ROSE unit processing the residual oil with a solvent 230 to recover an asphaltene stream 44 and a deasphalted oil 43, wherein said high level heat requirements are at temperatures of at least 155 Celcius [sic] degrees and pressures of at least 0.7 Mpa [sic]... .

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection on grounds that *Hervish* does not teach, show or suggest the claimed invention. At the very least, *Hervish* does not teach, show or suggest gasifying the asphaltene stream to form a gas stream, as required in every claim. Instead, *Hervish* discloses converting a residual fuel oil ("RFO") "into deasphalted oil and pitch streams that can be burned to generate power and steam." See, *Hervish* at col. 1, ll. 53-54. Accordingly, *Hervish* does not teach, show or suggest gasifying the asphaltene stream to form a gas stream. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Further, *Hervish* does not teach, show or suggest cleaning the gas stream to remove ash, soot, sulfur or a combination thereof, as required in every claim. As stated above, the asphaltene stream ("the pitch stream") is burned, not gasified. Accordingly, there is no gas to clean. Therefore, *Hervish* does not teach, show or suggest cleaning the gas stream to remove ash, soot, sulfur or a combination thereof, as required in every claim. For the same reasons, *Hervish* does not teach, show or suggest supplying the cleaned gas stream to (1) a combined cycle system for generation of power, steam or a combination thereof, (2) a gas processing system to produce hydrogen, synthesis gas, fuel gas or a combination thereof, or (3) a combination thereof, as required in every claims. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

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(signature page to follow)

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Conclusion

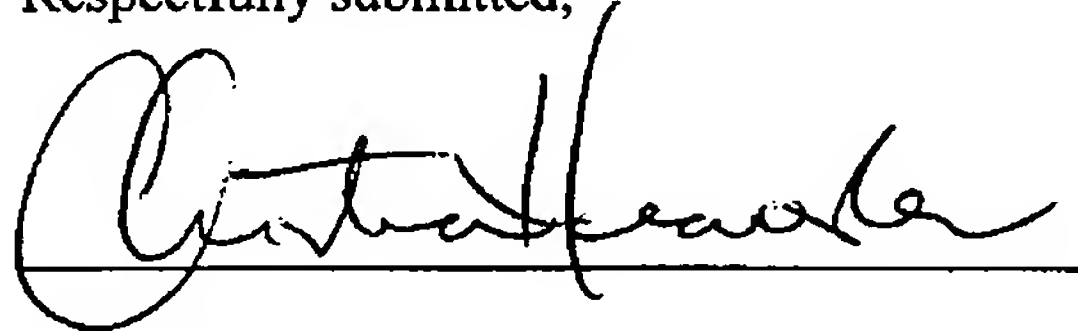
Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any issues outstanding which have not been addressed to the Examiner's satisfaction.

If any fees are due with the noted amendments, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this filing to Deposit Account Number 11-0400 in the name of Kellogg Brown & Root LLC.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his time on the matter.

Date: 10/2/07.

Respectfully submitted,



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